

## Patient information

# **Chalazion (Meibomian Cyst)**

## St. Paul's Eye Department

- This is a cyst in the eyelid appearing as a painless firm swelling within the eyelid. The cyst forms when the duct of a gland is blocked
- A chalazion may become infected causing pain, redness and swelling of the eyelid. This is treated with local application of heat and an antibiotic ointment
- The cyst may need to be excised if this treatment does not work
- After injection of an anaesthetic solution, a small clamp is used to turn the eyelid over. A cut is then made in the under surface of eyelid and the material within the cyst scraped out
- Ointment is put in the eye and a pad is applied for two hours. Ointment should be used four times a day for one week. No sutures are needed.

## **Possible risks associated with operations on the eyelids**

These are general risks. Each particular type of eyelid operation may have additional risks.

Bruising and swelling is common following a lid operation and may last for a couple of weeks. Generally, you should experience only mild pain or discomfort following the surgical treatment of eyelid problems.

This in turn may cause a misdirection of the eyelashes.

Not all chalazions can be identified at the time of surgery, so that residual cysts may remain. These may then need further surgery. Infection may occur with all types of eyelid surgery, even though preventative measures are undertaken. Following any lid procedure, there may be a local reduction in sensation at the site of the eyelid incision.

### **Are there any alternative treatments available?**

Ointment can be prescribed but for persistent excision is the only treatment.

### **What will happen if I don't have any treatments?**

The Cyst may gradually resolve by itself.

### **Will I be given an anaesthetic?**

You will be given a local anaesthetic. Local anaesthesia is drug-induced numbness. Anaesthetic drops are first placed into your eye followed by the injection of an anaesthetic solution into your eyelid; both of these may sting for a short period of time.

Although uncommon, unpredictable reactions may occur following injection of an anaesthetic solution. The solution may be unintentionally injected into a blood vessel leading to additional unpredictable reactions.

If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Consultant or a member of their team

### **General information**

- In most cases surgery is performed under local anaesthesia.
- You will attend Theatre Admissions Unit (TAU) for one to two hours.

- Following the operation, you may be asked to apply an ointment to your eye for approximately seven days following the procedure. This will be supplied and discussed with you by the nursing staff in Theatre Admissions Unit
- To apply the ointment, pull down your lower eyelid and squeeze a thin strand of about one centimetre into the gap between your eyelid and eye. The ointment may cause some blurring of your vision during use.

**Tell the doctor if you are taking aspirin or warfarin. You may be asked to discontinue your medication for a few days before the operation. It can be usually be restarted the day after the operation.**

## **Feedback**

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **Further information**

**Eye Emergency Department:**

**Tel: 0151 706 3949**

**Textphone Number: 18001 0151 706 3949**

**Theatre Admissions Unit Tel: 0151 706 2492 or 2733 for reception**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2733**

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**Review date: March 2026**

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